

GLIF 2007, Prague, September 17th, 2007

NLR-Internet2 Joining Forces?

***Progress toward a Merged
Organization***

Some Perspectives

NLR-I2 Network Planning Team

- Over the last several months there have been extensive discussions to merge the two organizations (NLR, Internet2). This process is still underway.
- Part of the process involved the creation of a Network Planning Team to discuss how the two national networks might be consolidated.
- And a Merger Planning team to look at business, financial, and organizations issues.

High Level Recommendations (NPT)

- Similar footprints (both on same optical fiber carrier)
- Some duplication of services
- Some opportunities for consolidation and cost reduction
- Overwhelming agreement that maintenance of the fiber and colo assets were important to allow flexibility moving forward
- Recommendation to maintain both infrastructures in the short to intermediate term

Why keep both Infrastructures?

- Extra capacity, take advantage of facilities available
- No disruption of services
- Contractual issues limit some options
- Better positioning for next technology cycle
- Allow for experimentation with service models

More Specifics on Proposed Plan

- Consolidate layer 3 networks. (Detailed technical engineering plan TBD)
- Maintain both “wave services” – utilize expanded capacity effectively
- Continue both “lightpath” services (VPNs, DCS) to allow for experimentation and alternative service models

For details see the NPT report

www.internet2-nlr.org/npt/NPT_final_report.pdf

The Challenges

– culture and (dare I say it) politics

- Different membership models
- Different business models
- Different services delivery models (who is the customer?) and, to a certain extent, network architectural model

Which is why it is taking a long time to come to closure!
SO ... Stay tuned.

But from the GLIF perspective, it is reasonable to assume that both styles of network services will be available over the next few years. And they are present at the known international exchange points.